

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2012
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2012

SENATE BILL

No. 1066

Introduced by Senator Lieu

February 13, 2012

An act to add Section 31113 to the Public Resources Code, relating to coastal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1066, as amended, Lieu. Coastal resources: climate change.

Existing law establishes the State Coastal Conservancy, which serves as a repository for coastal lands. Existing law authorizes the conservancy to, among other things, undertake projects and award grants for the purposes of restoration of areas of the coastal zone that are adversely affecting the coastal environment or are ~~impending~~ *impeding* orderly development.

This bill would require the conservancy to fund and undertake projects to address climate change, giving priority to projects that maximize public benefits.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:
- 2 (a) California's coastal waters, waterfronts, wetlands, harbors,
- 3 estuaries, bays, ports, marinas, riparian areas, beaches, and
- 4 agricultural resources are important environmental and economic
- 5 resources to the state.

1 (b) The coastal economy contributes \$46 billion-~~dollars~~ annually
2 to the State of California.

3 (c) Eighty percent of California's 38 million residents live within
4 30 miles of the coast.

5 (d) Sea level rise, combined with storm-driven waves, poses a
6 direct risk to the state's coastal resources, including public and
7 private real property and infrastructure. Rising marine waters
8 threaten sensitive coastal areas, habitats, the survival of threatened
9 and endangered species, beaches and other recreation areas, and
10 urban waterfronts.

11 (e) Commercial fisheries and fishing harbors, ports, production
12 of seafood, and related jobs will suffer adverse impacts if steps
13 are not taken to protect them.

14 (f) The desirability of natural areas, riparian areas, beaches,
15 parks, and urban areas as tourist destinations, and their concomitant
16 economic benefit to the state, depends on protection of their scenic
17 and recreational qualities.

18 (g) The economic and environmental health of human and
19 natural coastal communities depends on their resilience—their
20 ability to survive and rebound from adverse effects.

21 (h) Improving the health of coastal rivers, wetlands, beaches,
22 harbors, ports, urban waterfronts, fisheries, and agricultural
23 resources in advance of threats can contribute to their resiliency.

24 (i) Extensive cooperation between governmental and private
25 entities is needed to respond adequately to the effects of climate
26 change.

27 (j) For well over 30 years, the State Coastal Conservancy, a
28 nonregulatory agency established under Division 21 (commencing
29 with Section 31000) of the Public Resources Code, has worked
30 with public and private entities to protect, restore, and enhance
31 coastal and marine resources and habitats, has addressed
32 deteriorating urban waterfronts and poorly designed coastal
33 development, and has provided public recreation facilities and
34 access to the coast and urban waterfront areas.

35 (k) The conservancy can further contribute to the improvement
36 and management of the state's invaluable public and private coastal
37 resources, and, in so doing, lessen the degradation and destruction
38 from future effects of a changing climate on natural and built
39 resources and related jobs.

1 (l) Projects that protect coastal resources from climate change
2 impacts can provide additional valuable public benefits, including,
3 but not limited to, flood protection, improved water quality, and
4 increases in fish and wildlife for food and recreation.

5 (m) Existing law does not expressly authorize the State Coastal
6 Conservancy to address climate change or its impacts, despite the
7 anticipated adverse effects on the coast.

8 (n) It is the intent of the Legislature that, in implementing
9 Division 21 (commencing with Section 31000) of the *Public*
10 *Resources Code*, the conservancy ~~has~~ have adequate authority to
11 work with local governments and private entities to address the
12 effects of climate change on coastal resources, public and private,
13 natural and built, including, but not limited to, coastal beaches,
14 ports, urban waterfronts, infrastructure, the ocean, riparian areas
15 and watersheds, fisheries, forests, wetlands, and public and private
16 real property.

17 (o) The conservancy's participation in addressing adverse effects
18 on coastal resources can help to maintain property values for
19 individuals and businesses, aid the tourist industry, and promote
20 business and jobs by facilitating the development and protection
21 of visitor-serving commercial facilities and amenities attractive to
22 skilled and educated workers.

23 (p) The conservancy's participation in addressing climate change
24 can help to produce construction and other jobs for Californians,
25 both directly, through conservation and development activities,
26 and indirectly, through increased recreational, business, and tourist
27 use.

28 (q) The conservancy's participation can contribute to the
29 resiliency of the natural and built environments, including habitat,
30 beaches, ports, and urban waterfronts, and can facilitate assisted
31 migration of plant and animal species that lack adequate ability to
32 adapt.

33 (r) To the extent that this act assists the conservancy in obtaining
34 federal and other funds, it may help reduce demand on the General
35 Fund for coastal improvement and resilience activities.

36 SEC. 2. Section 31113 is added to the Public Resources Code,
37 to read:

38 31113. In implementing this division, the conservancy shall
39 fund and undertake projects to address climate change, including;
40 ~~but not limited to, planning, adaptation, and mitigation projects~~

1 *that address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge,*
2 *beach and bluff erosion, salt water intrusion, flooding, and other*
3 *coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure,*
4 *and natural resources, and may award grants to public agencies*
5 *and nonprofit organizations for these purposes. The conservancy*
6 *shall prioritize projects that maximize public benefits, including,*
7 *but not limited to, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases,*
8 *reducing hazards to harbors and ports, and related jobs, preserving*
9 *and enhancing coastal wetlands and natural lands, conserving*
10 *biodiversity, including fish, and related jobs, and providing*
11 *recreational opportunities.*

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